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**STOCKTON MAN INDICTED FOR IMPERSONATING A DEA OFFICIAL**

**SACRAMENTO**--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a one count indictment charging RICARDO SIMENTAL, 42, of Stockton, with impersonating a Drug Enforcement Administration official.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Stockton Police Department Vice Unit and the Drug Enforcement Administration .

According to Assistant United States Attorney Carolyn K. Delaney, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that between January, 2004, and April, 2005, SIMENTAL pretended to be an employee of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and in that role demanded or obtained money .

SIMENTAL was arrested this morning in Stockton while making an appearance at state court. He will appear in United States District Court today at 2:00 p.m. before United States Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for the offense of Impersonating a Federal Officer is three years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and one year of supervised release.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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